

Women on the Move: the journeyscapes of domestic violence

Different needs - Different services

Briefing Paper 5

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Key points:

- When planning and commissioning services - there are different needs for different services
- Around half of women who relocate to access services due to domestic violence stay local
- Women need different types of services - refuges are accessed by 70% non-local women
- Non-accommodation services are accessed by over 90% local women

As far as you need - as near as you can

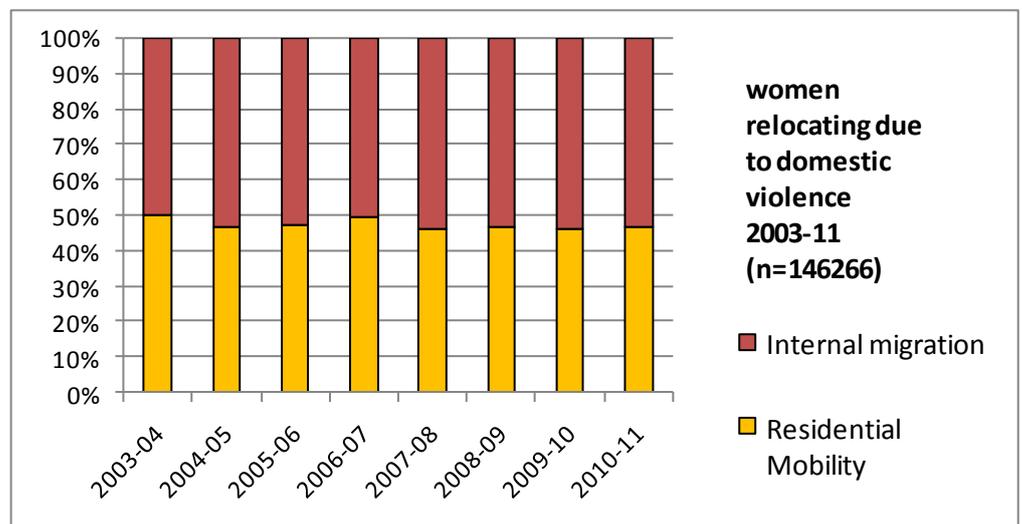
In escaping abuse, women try to work out where they will be safe, and be able to receive the help they need.

If women and children can stay put safely and receive the support they need – that is positive. It shouldn't be the victims of abuse that have to relocate. But many women and children do have to relocate – for safety, and to access the kind of support they need to recover from the violence and abuse.

Consistently, around half of those who relocate can stay within the same local authority (“residential mobility”) – with possible advantages of retaining contacts and familiarity; and experiencing less disruption to life, study and work.

Data in this briefing from Supporting People Programme of housing-related support services.

Department for Communities and Local Government and University of St Andrews, Centre for Housing Research (2012) *Supporting People Client Records and Outcomes, 2003/04-2010/11: Special Licence Access [computer file]*. Colchester, Essex, UK Data Archive [distributor]. Available from: <<http://dx.doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-7020-1>>



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**FOR FURTHER
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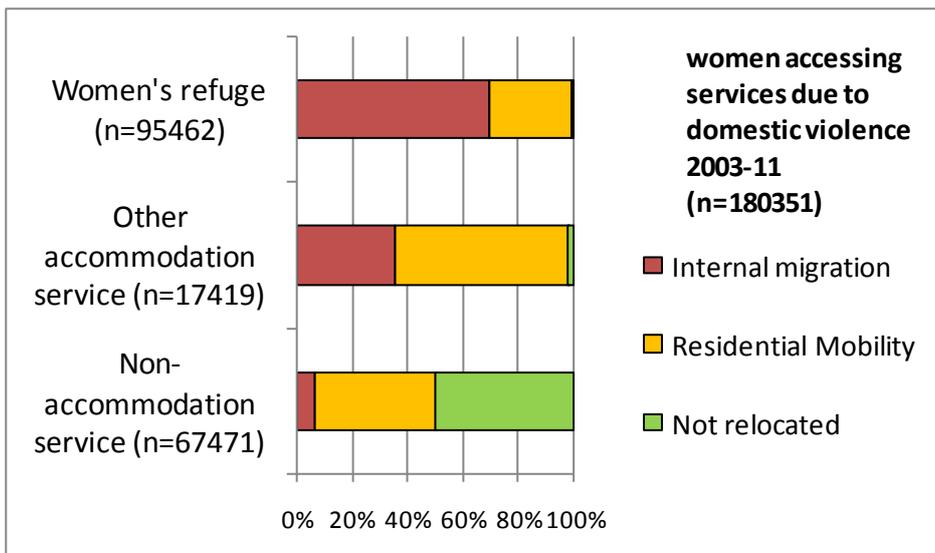
Around half of women cross local authority boundaries

Crossing boundaries has implications for rights and services, during different stages of the practical and emotional journeys.

When women and children have to make migration journeys, they need support to start again in a new area – they may be literally safe, but have cut themselves off from their support networks and their familiar resources. They therefore need specialist domestic violence services – typically refuges.

It's no surprise, therefore, that refuges are accessed by 70% non-local women ("internal migration") - see the graph below. In contrast, other kinds of accommodation services are mostly accessed by women relocating within the local authority ("residential mobility"); and only 35% by non-local women.

The support needs are different - so the support services also need to be different



Non-accommodation services are different again. When women can stay put or stay local they are much more likely to need these types of services. So support services that do not provide accommodation are over 90% accessed by local women – about 50% seeking help and staying put, and a further 44% relocating locally.

This needs to be understood when planning and commissioning services - different services for staying put, staying local, or escaping away.